FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 MARCH 1984

Omdurman Air Raid

An unidentified Soviet-made bomber dropped five bombs on Omdurman 16 March, hitting an administrative building of the Sudanese radio station, two houses, and two automobiles, SUNA reported. Citizens were slightly injured by the bombs, and units of the Armed Forces were placed on alert. The agency reported that President Ja'far Numayri later inspected the damaged buildings and cited statements by the Khartoum district commissioner's office and the SSU Secretariat in northern Khartoum condemning the "treacherous attack."

Jordan

The U.S. attitude and "double-faced policy everywhere" is "saddening," King Husayn said in an interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES* broadcast by Amman television on 15 March. "I had always thought that we were partners in principles and values of courage," the king said, but principles "mean nothing" to the United States. Temporary issues dominate U.S. policy, especially in election years when candidates "must obtain the support" of Zionists and Israel in their campaigns. The belief that the United States is no longer considered a "trusted mediator" results from a series of events of which Lebanon is the most recent and which caused the United States to "lose its credibility." Israel occupies Arab territories through the aid and support of the United States, which is continually "succumbing to Israel's will." For this reason, "we cannot deal with the United States as an ally of Israel or as a mediator," the king stated.

Lebanon

National Dialogue Conference — The Lausanne conference suspended its meetings until 17 March to mark the anniversary of Kamal Junblatt's death, the Progressive Socialist Party's (PSP's) clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported on 15 March. Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil met separately with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri in the presence of Syrian First Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Saudi minister of state, Beirut radio reported. Birri reiterated his demand that the president assume responsibility for what has happened in Lebanon and that political sectarianism be abolished.

Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram said that his forces will "politically and militarily oppose" any decision by the conference which runs counter to the interests of the Christians, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. To Afram, the conference was an "illusion" and nothing more than the implementation of Syrian decisions already made beforehand.

Military Developments — The cease-fire declared by the conference was violated along the contact lines in the commercial markets area on 15 March, Beirut radio announced. Despite attacks on it, the Lebanese Army continued to abide by the cease-fire decision, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The PSP and the Amal instituted "security patrols" in the southern suburb to make sure that the cease-fire was being honored by their members, Voice of the Mountain said.

In a separate development, President al-Jumayyil received a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak expressing Egypt's readiness "to play a part, when the time comes," in security discussions between Lebanon and Israel, Radio Free Lebanon announced.

U.S. Diplomat Kidnapped — Three unidentified gunmen kidnapped a U.S. Embassy official, William Buckley, outside his home on 16 March, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Developments — Iraqi forces are continuing their siege and bombardment of Majnun Island and "it has become certain" that they gained a "bridgehead" there, according to Radio Monte Carlo on 15 march. A military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 15 March claimed Iranian forces were continuing to consolidate their positions on a "considerable scale," especially in the Majnun Island operational sector. In other areas along the front, particularly the sector east of Basra, Iraqi forces confronted attacking Iranian troops and killed over 489 of them, a military communique on Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported.

In another development, an Iraqi plane airlifted Chilean-made "cluster bombs" from Santiago to be used in the war with Iran, JANA announced. Meanwhile, the Iraqi minister of industry and minerals, in a statement to INA, denied "Iranian-Zionist" claims that an industrial fertilizer complex west of Baghdad produces chemical weapons. Such claims are merely part of a propaganda attempt to establish a "coverup" for an Iranian attack against the complex in cooperation with Syria or Israel, the minister added.

Iran on Arab Conference — The Iranian Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio, warned Arab governments that it would not be a "wise policy" to intervene in the war at this point. Such conferences are just a "desperate measure" on the part of those countries that have played a role in "fanning the flames of the imposed war" and now see the Iraqi regime in danger. Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in remarks cited by Tehran radio, also warned "reactionary states of the region" against providing financial aid to Iraq as Iran will make a "proper response" to such actions when the time comes.

Iraq

The "Zionist regime of Baghdad" bombed Kurdish villages recently and forced inhabitants in northern Iraq to evacuate their homes, according to "informed sources" in Iraq cited by Tehran radio. This "desperate act" to suppress the Kurdish Muslims resulted from the failure of the agreement between Iraq and Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the radio added.

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation met with the Romanian president and foreign minister in Bucharest, IRNA reported. Talks centered on bilateral relations and international and regional issues including the Palestinian problem, Lebanon, South Africa, and the Sahara.

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Karmal Observes Air Defense Exercise 14 Mar

LD150002 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this morning observed tactical operation and combat target practice of a group of air defense units in one of the companies of Rocket Brigade No 99.

In this operation, which began at 0950 and continued for 1 and 1/2 hours, Companies No 1 and 4 of Rocket Brigade No 99, medium and light batteries of Artillery Unit No 77, and Hunter aircraft of the Air Force and air defense force took part.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Babrak Karmal, accompanied by Najibollah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, arrived at the headquarters of Rocket Brigade No 99 and was welcomed by Brigadier General Nazar Mohammad, chief of General Staff; Brigadier General Yasin Sadeqi, head of Army political affairs; Brigadier General Mohammad Nabi 'Azimi, first assistant to the minister of defense; Brigadier General Abdol Qader, acting head of the Air Force and Air Defense Command [as heard]; the commander of Rocket Brigade No. 99; and the political head of the Air Force.

Then Babrak Karmal and those accompanying him went to the operations site and with interest and satisfaction watched tactical operation and target practice by the air defense forces. Babrak Karmal then addressed the officers and men of Company No 4 of the rocket brigade who took part in this operation. He said: Comrade patriots, NCO's, and officers of revolutionary Afghanistan: I congratulate you on your success in using the most modern weapons in today's operations. We have complete confidence that now the liberating Army of Afghanistan is the most powerful defender of peace and the homeland, the defender of the peace and freedom of Afghanistan. On behalf of you, the liberating Army of Afghanistan, on behalf of the party and state, and on behalf of the people of Afghanistan, I express thanks and gratitude for the aid and cooperation of our friend and brother, the Soviet Union, which is taking part in defending the freedom of our country.

Comrades, I wish you heroes great victories and successes in defending the honor and people of the homeland.

Concluding, once again Babrak Karmal said: The heroic and courageous Afghan Army is invincible. The liberating Afghan Army, in unity with the people, under the leadership of the PDPA, is ready against every kind of treacherous aggression from foreign enemies, reaction, and imperialism.

The acting commander of the Air Force and Air Defense than presented to Babrak Karmal a gift from the staff of that command which was received with thanks.

Council of Ministers Approves 1984 Budget

LD152043 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] A full session of the DRA Council of Ministers was held today and assessed the results of the implementation of the socioeconomic development plan of the DRA, the implementation of the government budget in 1983, the draft of the country's socioeconomic development plan, and the government's budget for 1984.

A comprehensive report was presented at this session by Sawar Mangal, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee.

Referring to the results of the implementation of the 1983 plan Sawar Mangal said: The expected results of the implementation of the 1983 plan show that the outcome in most sectors of the national economy and in other fields was not only satisfactory but in some areas more than the envisaged plan. This is a result of measures and effective and serious actions for the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the 11th PDPA Central Committee Plenum.

The gross domestic product and national income for 1983 compared with the real figures for 1982 show a growth of 6 percent and 4.5 percent respectively, which stems mainly from a rise in the level of production in agriculture and cattle-breeding, a noticeable rise in industrial production, and an increase in construction.

Disposable gross national production and the national income in comparison with last year show an increase of 6.4 percent and 5.4 percent respectively and assessed at the level of 168.4 and 118.7 billion afghanis.

Referring to the draft socioeconomic development plan of the country for 1984, Sarwar Mangal said: The socioeconomic development plan for 1984 has been drafted and prepared with a view to utilizing all available resources. On the basis of this provision of the PDPA action program, under the present circumstances, the major duty of the party and of revolutionary sovereignty, parallel to the defense of our beloved homeland, the DRA, is to pursue constructive and indefatigable activities to improve the living standard of the people and achieve all-round socioeconomic and cultural progress in Afghanistan. This was also stressed by the 11th PDPA Central Committee Plenum and in the valuable instructions of Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Development investment in 1984 has been prepared in such a way as to guarantee the acceleration of completion stages in 180 transferred projects and parallel to this to begin the designing 37 projects and commence work on 29 new projects.

At this session of the Council of Ministers, 'Abdol Wakil, minister of finance, presented a report on the effects of the government budget in 1983 and of the draft budget for 1984.

During talks and discussions on these two issues, a number of vice chairmen, the chairman of the Council of Ministers and ministers spoke and assessed specific chapters of the plan and budget.

The Council of Ministers, after detailed discussion and consideration, approved the drafts of the government plan and budget for 1984 and decided to refer them to the DRA Revolutionary Council for implementation.

The Council of Ministers specified the duties of government planning committees, the Ministry of Finance, other ministries, and government departments regarding the implementation of the draft socioeconomic development plan of the country and the government budget for 1984.

At the end of the session, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered a detailed speech assessing the work of the session and implementation of the plan and government budget.

Assessing the results of the government budget in 1983 and the draft budget for 1984, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: The government budget for 1984 requires that serious measures be taken to increase the government income and reduce expenditure. Achievement of this task is linked with the successful implementation of the socioeconomic development plan of the country.

Raising the level of agricultural and industrial production of the country, speedy completion and exploitation of projects and major construction operations, and improvement in the work of government and mixed enterprises increase government income.

Today we assessed the effects of the government budget in 1983 and the draft budget for 1984. I am not going to repeat the figures stated in the session, however, I draw your attention to this important point:

One of the important characteristics of the budget for 1984 is the allocation of extra funds for social services in the development budget despite difficulties stemming from the undeclared war.

Here, careful observance of thrift in financial affairs, consolidation of financial and planning discipline, raising the level of responsibility, and scrutiny of government income and expenses by ministries and departments are essential. The government will take all possible action in this respect and will take further effective controlling measures in this regard.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Council of Ministers said that our success in the growth of the national economy and in the construction of a new and democratic life is of not only nation but international importance. Every victory of ours on this path is a blow to the imperialist and reactionary conspiracies and intrigues.

Keshtmand Address

LD160809 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 15, BAKHTAR — Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, has said that the volume of agricultural yields except cotton seed and sugar beets will be higher by the end of the current Afghan year than produced in the prerevolutionary year.

Speaking at a meeting of Council of Ministers of the DRA on Wednesday he added that preliminary data indicate that the national economy has grown considerably during the current Afghan year despite the continuation of the undeclared war unleashed by the imperialist forces and the subversive actions of the counterrevolution.

Dwelling on the socio-economic development plans of the next Afghan year which will begin on March 21, 1984, S.A. Keshtmand among other issues emphasized that the living standard of the Afghan people must be enhanced, the defence power of the country must be strengthened and progress must be made in the further eradication of illiteracy, development of general education, public health and information and culture.

To achieve these ends, the production of foodstuffs and other required goods must be increased. This means that we must work harder today and tomorrow than we did yesterday, the speaker emphasised. Referring to the assistance rendered by the Soviet Union, S.A. Keshtmand noted that sixteen projects have been built under the economic and technical assistance of the Soviet Union. These projects which have already started functioning play a major role in [word indistinct] the national economy of the country. Among other things, the share of the Soviet Union in foreign trade is 60 percent and 70 percent of the industrial products in the state sector of the DRA are produced by the Afghan-Soviet joint enterprises in the country, he concluded.

Mujahidin Intensify Operations Near Kabul

BK151622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have intensified their operations in and around Kabul in the last 8 days. The mujahidin attacked the (Qaria Kah) divisional military headquarters and security post at (Kotakhamri) in Kabul and killed a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers. They also attacked military posts at (Mehtab) fort and (Qala Wahid). A commander of the Karmal militia was also killed in the (Qala Qazi) area of Kabul.

The mujahidin also ambushed a military convoy about 13 km from the (Warsak) subdivisional headquarters in Helmand Province.

UK Paper on Troop Mutinies, Soviet Buildup

PM151145 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 14 Mar 84 p 5

[M. Aftab Islamabad dispatch: "Afghan Troops Mutiny Over Added Service"]

[Text] Afghan regime troops belonging to the Eight Division based at Kargah mutinied last Friday in protest against the extension of the conscription service, western diplomats said here yesterday.

Large numbers of soldiers at other places including Kabul, the Afghan capital, have deserted after a radio announcement by the Government that conscripts were to serve an extra year.

Many were to have been released on the Afghan national day next Wednesday.

The decision had been taken at the thirteenth plenum of the Communist Party of Afghanistan late last month.

It was meant to shore up the number of soldiers because the armed forces are fast depleting as a result of desertions or deaths in fighting against Islamic rebels.

Pitched Battle

A pitched battle broke out between Moslem guerrillas and troops stationed at Kargah, five miles north west of Kabul on the night of the announcement.

Diplomats said the firing of artillery, rockets, mortars and machine-guns at the Eight Division headquarters could be heard all over Kabul.

They said death and desertion have cut the army down to half the 80,000-man level it had before guerrilla action began after the Communist coup in April, 1978.

Conscription laws began to be tightened in December when the army started drafting teachers.

Most are from Kabul, whose male student population have started to fall since army press gangs began seizing boys as young as 15 for service.

Soviet Invasion

Large numbers of old people, women and children have arrived in Kabul from the Panjshir Valley, a guerrilla stronghold north of the capital now preparing for a Soviet invasion.

Amad Shah Masud, Panjshir, rebel commander, said last week that Soviet forces, who had observed a truce with him since early last year, had begun a new offensive by attacking a main supply route into the valley.

While not able to confirm any fighting in the valley, the diplomats reported a Soviet troop build-up near the area.

They said the Soviet Union had flown extra SU-25 ground attack aircraft, one of their best jets for fighting in deep valleys, to the nearby Baghram airbase.

Troops Increase: Growing Burden

Balram Tandon in New Delhi writes: The Soviet Union has increased the strength of its occupation forces in Afghanistan by at least 30,000 combatants in recent months. Western diplomatic sources said yesterday.

There has been a corresponding increase in the number of Sukhoi (SU) 25 and MiG fighter bombers and helicopter gunships.

They said the Soviet occupation army has increased from 80,000 in 1980 to at least 135,000 combatants.

The increase appears to correspond to the growing burden of patrolling the major urban centres of Afghanistan, the unreliability of the Afghan army and an unexpected extension of the guerrilla war area during the winter months.

Latest reports say at least two brigades of Soviet troops backed by armour, tracked personnel carriers and heavy artillery are now massed at Gulbahar, commanding the entrance to the Panjshir Valley.

Successful Operations Against Rebels Cited

Kabul, Balkh Provinces

LD111835 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] As a result of the daily heroic operations of the country's vigilant forces, counterrevolutionary elements — sworn enemies of our toiling people — are being brought to their knees in all parts of the country and are being sent to the graveyard of history.

A group of counterrevolutionary elements belong to the band of Gulbuddin, this notorious lunatic, headed by Gol Mohammad, which had endangered the peaceful life of the noble people of Qarah Bagh District, Kabul Province, recently was crushed by the security forces. A spokesman for the security forces said that 2 rocket launchers, 2 Kalashnikovs, 2 rifles, 16 rounds of mortar missiles, 10 missiles for rocket launchers, and a quantity of propaganda leaflets were seized from the traitors.

According to another report, a group of traitors who disrupted the peaceful life of the noble people in Langar Khaneh-ye village, Nahr-e Shahi District, recently was crushed by the security forces officers and troops. A spokesman for the sarandoy command of Balkh Province said that during the operation 4 assorted weapons, 6,000 rounds of ammunition, 23 hand grenades, 7 Egyptian Kalashnikovs, and incriminating documents indicating their link with counterrevolutionary bands outside the country were seized.

According to another report, as a result of a successful operation recently carried out in (Bengal) village, Chemtal District, Balkh

Province, a group of rebels were crushed and 6 assorted weapons, 1 antitank mine, and 203 rounds of DShK ammunition were seized by the security forces of Balkh Province.

Another report from Mazar-e Sharif states that as a result of a successful operations yesterday by the 18th force of Balkh [two names indistinct] and the Chahar Bulaq District of Balkh Province, some 15 rebels belonging to the so-called Jami'at-e Eslami band were crushed and a number of these professional murderers, headed by Hayatollah from Char Bolak District, were captured. A spokesman of the security forces in Balkh Province said that 1 machine gun, a quantity of heavy and light weapons, 5 missiles [words indistinct] hand grenades, 557 rounds of ammunition, 1 truck,and a foodstuff storeroom were seized by the security forces.

Ghazni, Baghlan Provinces

LD131816 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] As a result of the successful operations recently carried out in (Neyadat), (Bagha), and (Kozarmatak) villages, (Andel) District, Ghazni Province, by the Armed Forces and party activists of Ghazni Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements belonging to Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi band were killed and eight of these murderers were arrested.

A provincial spokesman said that as a result of these operations 4 DShK's, 1 heavy machine gun, 1 bren, 1 .303 rifle, 15 assorted weapons, a number of hand grenades, and a quantity of propaganda leaflets were seized from the rebels.

According to another report, as a result of the successful operations recently carried out by the security forces in Tarakhel village, central Baghlan Province, three counterrevolutionaries belonging to the so-called Hezb-e Eslami band were killed and one was arrested; three Chinese Kalashnikovs were seized.

According to yet another report from Laghman Province as a result of the operations recently carried out in (Parwa'i) village, Nurestan District, 13 counterrevolutionary elements, belonging to the Harakat-e Eslami band, were killed.

Voice of Islamic Revolution on Fighting

Prisoners Freed

GF101358 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Our Muslim revolutionaries killed 10 soldiers of the Soviet occupationist forces, wounded many others, and destroyed 3 of their tanks in operations in the regions of (Sangin Shadian) and (Jakin) in Balkh Province.

The Soviet usurpist forces bombed the villages of the regions to avenge the consecutive defeats inflicted on them by our Muslim revolutionaries. As a result, some Muslims attained martyrdom.

According to reports, the forces of blasphemy along with three tanks equipped with guns were moving in the district of Ghurian toward Ghurian River and encountered 30 defenseless people — brothers who had fled from conscription — and took them prisoners. Following this barbaric act, our Muslim revolutionaries went to that area and opened fire on the Soviet tanks, as a result of which one of the tanks of the forces of blasphemy was destroyed and another was damaged. In this foray, some of soldiers of the Soviet forces were wounded by our mujahidin and all the Muslim prisoners were freed.

Reports disseminated stated that during the past few days, violent clashes took place in Anar Darreh between the Soviet usurpist forces and our Muslim revolutionary brothers. This area had been completely besieged by Soviet tanks. Due to the efforts of our Muslim revolutionary brothers, some tanks and a military jeep of the aggressors were destroyed by the rockets and mines of our brothers and a large quantity of arms and ammunition fell into our brothers' hands as booty. In this violent clash, which was accompanied by aerial bombing by the forces of apostasy, some of defenseless people were martyred and vast losses were inflicted on the residential areas. In this clash, which lasted for 13 hours, some of our Muslim mujahidin achieved martyrdom, but due to the courage of fortitude of the Muslim revolutionary brothers, the Soviet aggressive forces and the puppet regime of Karmal fled in retreat. According to reports, only one group of 50 soldiers of the government forces of the puppet regime remains in the area north of Anar Darreh.

Move Into Panjshir Noted

GF111105 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Our Muslim brothers in various sectors of the country are continuing their revolutionary fight against the Soviets and the puppet regime of Karmal. Our brave fighters have inflicted heavy blows on the enemy. In Herat, during a recent surprise attack by the Muslim mujahidin against Karmal forces who were planning to surround the town of (Guzarrah), the mujahidin killed many government soldiers. Our correspondent writes that some 70 Karmal soldiers were killed in this action, including several officers, NCO's and members of the government militia.

In another mujahidin attack in Shahr-e Now against the Karmal soldiers near the road to the women's garden, 15 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded. In this attack, one truck of the Khad spy organization of the Karmal regime was destroyed along with its crew. The mujahidin also destroyed one oil tanker and an ordinary vehicle. In this operation, three mujahidin members were wounded.

According to another report received from Herat, the Muslim mujahidin attacked the Soviet and the Karmal forces in the (Chandak) region. One Soviet tank was destroyed and its eight-man crew killed. In this attack, the mujahidin also captured 17 Kalashnikov rifles, 2 Goryunov machine guns, and 1 piece of communications equipment, along with other materiel.

According to reports, the Soviet forces have launched a vast movement of troops and materiel for a new attack on the Panjshir

Valley. However, our Muslim mujahidin are prepared to take on the Soviet and Karmal troops. It may be recalled that the Soviet and Karmal troops have in the past suffered many defeats in the Panjshir Valley.

'Heavy Fighting' Continues

GF131925 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Heavy fighting between the mujahid brothers who are ever present in their trenches and the occupationists of the Red forces and the puppet Babrak Karmal regime continues throughout our Islamic nation.

With the succor of the sacred will of the Almighty, our Muslim mujahidin reap fresh victories every day. According to reports from Badghis Province, our Muslim revolutionaries attacked a (?center) of the mercenary Karmal regime and were successful in liberating more than 40 of our friends in the trenches, struggling Muslim brothers from the clutches of the hirelings of the Kremlin.

In these operations which continued for a few hours, 60 government soldiers and 1 officer of the Karmal regime were killed and one jeep and one tank were destroyed. The same report added that to avenge the defeat of the forces, of their mercenaries, Soviet helicopters bombed the residential areas of our innocent Muslim people, martyring at least 10 civilians and seriously damaging their fields and cultivated plots.

According to reports from Kandahar, in a clash in Kandahar, which took place between our Muslim brothers and the Soviet occupationists, our Muslim mujahidin succeeded in killing two of the Soviet soldiers and destroying one of their tanks. Reports from Ghazni Province state that our Muslim mujahidin, in a rapid siege of a group of the government forces, succeeded in killing (?six) of them. The scene of operations has been named the "Rawzeh" area. By the grace of God, there was no loss of our ever-in-the-trench forces. The Soviet forces, in lieu of their antihuman tactics and to revenge the defeat of their mercenaries, violently bombed the villages and the vicinity of the areas around the "Rawzeh" area with their helicopters and aircraft [words indistinct]. Women and children were martyred and their houses were destroyed.

BAKHTAR Scores 'Humanitarian Aid to Mujahidin'

LD160856 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 15 BAKHTAR — A BIA commentator writes: Western propaganda services have been more frequently calling of late for "humanitarian aid to mujahidin" on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. For example, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) — the official mouthpiece of Britain,one of the main U.S. allies in the undeclared war against Afghanistan, made an instigatory appeal for building hospitals in the areas of mujahidin's operations — this is how the traitors of the Afghan people, hired killers and saboteurs are called in the West.

The appeal of imperialist propaganda to help bandits directly in Afghanistan is nothing but an open interference in the affairs of sovereign Afghanistan. As for idle talks about the "humanitarian" nature of aid, they are only a verbal camouflage which serves for Washington and its allies as a cover for the escalation of the undeclared war against the DRA.

French physician Philippe Jean-Marie Augoyard revealed at a press conference a year ago who is really behind the so-called "humanitarian aid to mujaheddins." Recruited by the French organization international medical aid [as received] he was smuggled via Peshawar into the Afghan province of Logar, together with a group of bandits.

After the rout of the gang the unlucky French adventurer had to appear before court where he admitted and then confirmed at a press conference that he was engaged not so much in medical activity as in espionage, collecting economic and military information for western secret services.

He got help from those whom imperialist propaganda is trying to present as "Afghan patriots." For them to sell the interests of Afghanistan is the same as to commit cruel acts of terror against the Afghan civilians. Terrorists, smuggled from abroad, have destroyed in the country 1,814 schools, 31 hospitals and 111 health centres. They killed children, women and old people

If these barbarians are given "humanitarian aid," then why not to help say, Turkish "grey wolves" or Italian Mafia? A hospital with a signboard: "For the soldiers of Red Brigades" would be a mockery of innocent victims. Provocative calls to help Afghan bandits are just as blasphemous.

Bandits are always bandits in any country. To help Afghan counter-revolutionaries sent from abroad, or appeal for such help, means to impede the peaceful settlement of the situation that has shaped around Afghanistan, i.e. play into the hands of Washington which strives for escalation tension in South-west Asia to carry out its expansionist plans in the region.

Briefs

Irrigation Protocol With USSR — Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR — A protocol for intensification of the Soviet technical and economic cooperation with the DRA was signed at the Ministry of Irrigation here today. The protocol calls for expediting the delivery of equipment and supplies needed for equipping the eleven irrigation centres of the country as well as to provide equipment needed for repairing the Sardeh Dam in Ghazni Province. Restarting of the work of Kokcha irrigation project in Badakhshan Province at the earliest pssible time also was reviewed and included in the protocol. [Text][Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 14 Mar 84 LD]

Spokesman Deplores Alleged Use of Chemicals in Gulf

BK160046 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] India believes that the use of chemical weapons as allegedly done in the Iran-Iraq war would be a violation of international conventions. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that while India is awaiting the findings of the UN mission in this connection, it would have no hesitation in condemning the use of chemical weapons. He said the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, had on several occasions expressed this view. All these reports and developments only cause greater anguish and underscore the imperative necessity of the Iran-Iraq war coming to an immediate end.

The spokesman, who was answering questions by newsmen, said ever since the war broke out, India and the chairperson of the movement, Mrs Gandhi, made continuous efforts to bring an end to the hostilities between the two member countries of the movement and restore peace in the area. Efforts were also made by others. But the intensity of the conflict has heightened, and there are reports of resort to chemical weapons.

More Than 38,000 Port, Dock Workers Strike

BK160350 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The port and dock workers have begun an indefinite strike in support of their demand for wage revision. The authorities at most of the ports have taken the necessary precautions. A PTI report from Bombay says activities at Bombay port came to a standstill at midnight last night. According to the president of the All-India Port and Dock Workers Federation, Mr S.R. Kulkarni, the strike is total. Our Calcutta correspondent reports that over 38,000 workers and employees of the Calcutta port went on strike from midnight. The port trust chairman, Mr T.C. Dutt, said a short while ago that 40 ships are stranded in Calcutta and Haldia ports. Four ships are waiting at the (?Sandhurst). He said security arrangements have been strengthened.

The minister for shipping and transport, Mr Vijay Bhaskara Reddy, earlier appealed to the port and dock workers to desist from going on an indefinite strike. Making a statement in the parliament yesterday, he reaffirmed the government's desire to reach a reasonable settlement on the port and dock workers demands. The labor minister, Mr Virendra Patil, has advised the employees to postpone the strike by at least 1 week for consultations with the concerned ministries to find an amicable solution.

Soviet Defense Minister's Visit Viewed

BK151429 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Raghunath Raina commentary: "India and Soviet Union"]

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov's 6-day official visit to India once again underscored this country's firm commitment to peace. This was made clear both by the prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, at the very outset.

In her talks with the Soviet defense minister lasting more than 100 minutes, Mrs Gandhi reviewed the situation in the South Asian region and gave him an appraisal of the efforts being made by India to normalize relations with her neighbors. Similarly, India's defense minister affirmed this country's firm resolve to continue efforts to reduce tension and provide harmony in the region with increased cooperation in economic and other fields. But both the Soviet defense minister and the Indian leaders could not but take notice of and express anxiety over the progressive heightening of tensions in the neighborhood and militarization of the Indian Ocean region. It was in this context that Marshal Ustinov observed that his country was aware of the increased U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean area where military intervention and rapid deployment forces were being positioned. As far as India is concerned it cannot ignore the $3.2 billion economic and military package, which the United States is providing to Pakistan. It includes the sophisticated F-16 military aircraft, which posed a serious threat to India's security.

It is in this background that Mrs Gandhi told an American journal recently that the United States Government has supported and they continue to support military and other dictatorships and authoritarian regimes in Latin America, in Africa and in Asia. What Mrs Gandhi said about the American Government's policies is well known. As of today, more than 500,000 U.S. troops are posted in nearly 2,500 bases and military installations in 114 countries around the globe. And by sheer coincidence, during Marshal Ustinov's tour of India there were reports that the Pakistani Government had promised to allow U.S. planes to use the country's airfields in the event of certain contingencies in the Persian Gulf. Although these reports have been denied, the fact remains that the stationing of a small number of U.S. troops in Pakistan does not need authorization by the U.S. Congress.

Another factor, which lent significance to Soviet defense minister's visit to India was the report that Pakistan had attained the capability of producing weapons grade enriched uranium. As India's defense minister told the Parliament that India could not ignore the serious security implication of Pakistan's capability, he informed the members that, apart from acquiring F-16 aircraft, naval and air missiles, and other sophisticated equipment from the United States, Pakistan had been vigorously pursuing efforts to achieve uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing capability. Mr Venkataraman also said that the government had seen reports that some of the newly acquired sophisticated weapon systems had been tried out in recent winter military training exercises in Pakistan. All this and the massive induction of arms into the subcontinent would only give a new impetus to the arms race and heighten tension.

It is in this context that Mrs Indira Gandhi is reported to have told Marshal Ustinov about the situation in India's neighborhood and the country's economic problems resulting from the heavy burden of defense in the face of induction of sophisticated arms in the region. It is again for the same reason that India's defense minister told the visiting dignitary that we also have to take steps to ensure that legitimate requirements for our defenses are met.

What is obvious is that with the growing U.S. military presence around India, the country has no alternative but to update its defense capability and to be prepared for possible dangers to its freedom and territorial integrity.

Marshal Ustinov's visit to India, thus, has to be viewed in the larger context of Indo-Soviet relations. As India's defense minister put it, the area of cooperation between India and the Soviet Union was very large, and we have to update it from time to time. Marshal Ustinov similarly stressed that Indo-Soviet relations were very good and that his visit would help to bring about better result.

TIMES OF INDIA Editorial

BK160459 Bombay TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Mar 84 p 8

[Editorial "The Ustinov Visit"]

[Text] Marshal Ustinov's week-long visit to this country has not merely underscored but also reinforced the time-tested Indo-Soviet friendship. Perhaps inevitably public attention has been focussed on the Soviet defence minister's promise to supply India advanced technology defence equipment to meet the mounting challenges, but his talks with Mrs. Gandhid and Mr. R. Venkataraman were far more wide-ranging than her brief meetings with both Mr. Chernenko and the late Mr. Andropov could possibly have been.

It is measure of the importance attached to his visit by the Indian side that he was at Rashtrapati Bhavan where normally only heads of states and governments stay. Details of the military hardware, the supply of which has been discussed in New Delhi, are not yet known. But from what has been said, it can be deduced that the future supplies might cover MiG-29s and even MiG-31s for the air force, more and new submarines as well as marine reconnaissance aircraft for the navy and advanced missiles artillery for the army. Whether the upgrading of the T-72 tanks to T-80 ones has also figured in the discussions is not known. However, much more important than the range and quality of the arms proposed to be supplied are three other facts which merit attention.

The first and foremost of these is that never before in their dealings with any friendly country, including India, have the Russians ever agreed to the transfer of equipment still being developed within the Soviet Union itself. In the late sixties they were chary of even discussing the MiG-23 and the Sukhoy-7. Now, for the first time, they have freely talked of the MiG-31 which, according to U.S. intelligence, will not be operational for another two or three years. Secondly, as always, the latest Soviet promise is accompanied by Moscow's willingness to transfer technology for their eventual manufacture in India. And thirdly, it would be entirely wrong to look at the supplies under discussion in the context merely of the massive transfer of highly sophisticated U.S. arms to Pakistan. As Marshal Ustinov has himself hinted in one of his speeches, the wider developments in the Indian Ocean have raised the Soviet Union's stakes in strengthening the defences of an India determined to uphold its policies of peace, non-alignment and independence. He did not say so publicly, but it is clear that these stakes have become all the more greater, given the delicate stage of the triangular relationship between China and the two superpowers, especially in view of the recent visit to the U.S. by the Chinese Premier, Mr. Zhao Ziyang. By the same token, India's needs to speed up its own defence R and D with a view to be self-reliant in advanced military technologies cannot be overstated. This need has been stressed by government leaders from time to time. But it has yet to be reflected in the defence budget.

Sethi Says Akali Demand on Charter Not Clear

BK151105 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The home minister says the Akali demand regarding Article 25 of the Constitution is not clear. Mr Sethi also said what they want the government to do in this regard is not understandable. He was replying to supplementaries during question hour in the Rajya Sabha today. He said many Sikh intellectuals have commented that there is nothing wrong in the said article. It is not correct to say that the prime minister or the home minister has at any time given the Akalis to understand that their demand with regard to Article 25 will be considered. The home minister said there are constitutional procedures for any amendment to the constitution.

Earlier in reply to the main question, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Venkatasubbiah, said 56 persons were arrested in Punjab last month for showing disrespect to the Constitution.

One Person Killed in Shooting Incident in Amritsar

BK151605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] In Amritsar, one person was killed in a shooting incident within the district court premises today. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, five alleged criminals, who were presented to the court of the chief judicial magistrate by the police, were acquitted by the court when the police tried to arrest two of them wanted in another case. They resisted and somebody from the crowd opened fire which hit the victim. The police also opened fire to control the unruly mob. Two persons have been arrested in this connection.

Akali Dal To Boycott Rajya Sabha Biennial Polls

BK151629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Akali Dal has decided not to take part in the coming biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha. In a statement issued in Amritsar today the party president, Sant Hardchand Singh Longowal, said the decision has been taken to protest against, what he described as, the discriminatory treatment meeted out to the Sikhs in Punjab and elsewhere.

7,000 Infiltrators Handed Over to Security Force

BK151055 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] About 7,000 infiltrators, apprehended along the borders of Punjab and northeastern states last year, were handed over to the Border Security Force [BSF]. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for home, Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, said a number of steps have been taken to check the infiltration which include deployment of BSF battalions on Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders.

Assam Anti-Immigrant Demonstration 'Peaceful'

BK151615 Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Gauhati, India, March 15 (AFP) — Defying prohibitory orders, a large number of anti-immigrant demonstrators took to the streets here to press their demands for the deportation of Bangladeshi and Nepalese settlers from Assam.

Except for few mild baton charges in which six people were injured, the one-day "mass satyagraha" or passive resistance, called by the All-Assam Students Union and the All-Assam People's Action Council, went off peacefully.

The main participants were women and students.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported that about 700 people were arrested in the northeastern Indian state for violating prohibitory orders banning demonstrations.

Police had blocked all roads to prevent the demonstrators from reaching the offices of the district commissioner to [words indistinct] a memorandum demanding the detection and deportation of "illegal" settlers from neighboring Bangladesh and Nepal, unofficially estimated at five million.

A spokesman for leaders of the four-year anti-settler campaign said that the mass support to the passive resistance action today was a morale booster. He said a new phase of the campaign would come shortly.

It was the first major protest action in Assam since Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress Party formed the government there in the wake of controversial state elections which sparked widespread violence early last year.

Between 1,500 and 3,500 people died in the violence triggered by allegations by indigenous [word indistinct] militants that "illegal immigrants" had been allowed to vote.

Meeting Reviews Law, Order in Punjab

BK160034 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The law and order situation in Punjab was reviewed by the deputy commissioner and senior superintendents of police at a meeting in Ludhiana today. The governor, Mr B.D. Pande, presided over the meeting. It was also attended by the two advisers to the governor — the home secretary and the inspector general of police.

Later, briefing newsmen, the adviser to the governor, Mr Surendra Nath, said that the district administration has been asked to maintain the tempo of improvement in the law and order situation. District magistrates have also been empowered to decide on lifting the ban on scooters and motorcycles subject to the improvement in the law and order situation.

The driving of scooters will be allowed in the Jullundur District between 0600 and 2000 from today. However, pinion travelling will be restricted to women and children. The ban on motorcycles will continue.

Shooting, Bombing Incidents Reported From Punjab

BK160352 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] In Punjab, three persons, including two children, were injured in Jullundur in a bomb blast near the television center last night. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the victims received minor injuries. In another incident the caretaker of a religious place near Dinanagar in Gurdaspur District was injured when two unidentified persons fired at him. Later, the culprits escaped in a jeep. The police is making efforts to apprehend to culprints.

Sanjay Front Members Resign, Join Congress-I

BK151714 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the Delhi pradesh [state] Rashtriya Sanjay Manch [National Sanjay Front], Mr Nand Kishore Yadav, along with a large number of officebearers and active workers, have resigned from the Manch and joined the Congress-I. In a press release, Mr Yadav said they have resigned because of the encouragement given by the Manch president, Mrs Maneka Gandhi, to the RSS [Rashtriaya Swayam Sewak Sangh] and other communal elements, as he put it. The press release said the workers have pledged to work under the leadership of Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Government Denies Move To Scrap Atomic Plant

BK151059 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The government today denied any move to scrap the Rajasthan atomic power station. The Rajya Sabha was told today that the second unit of the station has been operating satisfactorily. In a written answer, the house was informed that the first unit of the station was shut down for repairs in March 1982. It will resume its normal functioning as soon as the unit is tested for steady operation.

In reply to another question, the minister for science and technology, Mr Shivraj Patil, informed the house that the Kota heavy water plant is scheduled to be commissioned in October this year.

Minister on VOA Installation in Sri Lanka

BK150950 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] India has taken up with Sri Lanka the question of allowing the Voice of America to set up a powerful transmission center in that country. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, told the Lok Sabha today that India is seized of its various implications. He said as the chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement, it cannot take up the issue with other nonaligned countries unless it is considered a flagrant violation of the tenets of the movement. The minister was answering supplementaries whether the installation of this transmission center contravenes the effort of the Nonaligned Movement in building up a new information order.

President Comments on Palestine, Atom Bomb, India

LD161104 Kuwait KUNA in English 1018 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 16 (KUNA) — Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul Haq was quoted as saying in an interview published here Friday that the Palestinian crisis had been shelved and "as we cannot restore the whole of Palestine, we should be content with part of Palestine, which can be the homeland of all the Palestinians."

Ziaul Haq told *AL-ANBA'* daily newspaper that Muslims should be aware that "we don't want, and are unable to throw Israel into the sea and should cooperate and plan to reach a practical solution" to the Palestinian crisis.

Speaking about the Israeli-occupied Jerusalem, the Pakistani President said this issue concerns the Christians, the Muslims and the Jews alike, "and in light of that fact we have to look for a settlement, because it (Jerusalem) is not for a specific nation or religion". Ziaul declined further elaboration on that point, however.

Answering a question on means of resolving the Afghan crisis, the Pakistani president said this should be carried out through the complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

He pointed out that at present there are three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan costing one million dollars daily, half of which is being cashed from the Pakistani budget and the rest are donations from international organizations.

Answering a question on the international fuss on reports claiming that Pakistan is producing the atom bomb, the Pakistani President described the story as "lie, joke and legend."

"They are making ridiculous claims that we possess the atomic bomb. Do you know why these allegations are being made? Because Pakistan is the biggest country exporting Islam and the biggest Islamic experience. So if Pakistan owns that bomb, they say, it will give the bomb to Yasir 'Arafat (the PLO chairman) and will ask 'Arafat to throw it on Israel," he said.

Speaking about his country's relations with India, Ziaul said Pakistan hopes for good neighborhood ties with India, but pointed out that New Delhi is deploying 18 military divisions on its border with Pakistan.

Questioned on the restoration of democracy to Pakistan, the Pakistani president said he is striving to "introduce the true Islamic democratic practices to Pakistan," adding that in March next year local and national councils will be elected "in accordance with democratic principles, but in stages."

Agricultural Students Protest Union Ban

GF160756 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Faisalabad, March 11: Agriculture university students again boycotted their classes as a mark of protest against the ban on students unions. Window-panes in four class rooms were broken while the administrative block was also damaged.

Meanwhile, the students of PMC [not further identified], too, stoned the administrative block of their college, damaging the office of the principal. The police have registered a case against 10 students of PMC. However, no arrest has been reported so far. In an official handout issued by the University of Agriculture, however, it has been staded "that a majority of students are attending their classes and are quite serious about their exams". The handout further stated that "special police arrangements have been made to guard against untoward eventualities."

DAWN Analyzes Relations With USSR, West

GF091928 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Mar 84 p 7

[Article by M.B Naqvi]

[Text] Pakistan president's for-the-record remarks, before emplaining for Moscow to attend Mr Yuriy Andropov's last rites, remain significant despite their protocol nature.

He drew attention to several things: The Pakistan-Soviet relations improved during Andropov's period and that he hoped the new leadership would carry this good work forward. After enumerating the exchange of visits and Soviet help for big Pakistani projects, he mentioned Afghanistan also. He expressed his belief that without the Soviet Union's full cooperation, Afghanistan problem's amicable solution would be impossible.

True, Mr Konstantin Chernenko and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq could not meet for a conversation. But that does not seem to be significant, for most of the world, including *PRAVDA*, has concluded that the new Kremlin leader would continue the old policies. If so, this may be a minor matter dictated mainly by human and time constraints. For the rest, events in the coming months will show how closely the new leadership will follow old policies.

From a practical viewpoint two Soviet initiatives need to be pondered over: One is the slowly progressing talks for a detente between the Soviet Union and the PRC. The other has taken the shape of cascading hints to Pakistan; Ambassador Vitaliy Smirnov has been conducting an uncharacteristic open diplomacy. Apparently, an immature reporter of an eveninger put a rather startling figure on the intended Soviet aid to Pakistan if only it were to adopt a different attitude.

There have been other indications. Apparently, the sky would be the limit of Soviet aid and helpfulness: Exploitation of bauxite with superior Soviet technology has been promised in addition to many other projects. The fifteen-year-old Kosygin idea of overland trade-and-transit arrangements in South Asia has been revived: Soviet aid for first-rate road and rail links from Soviet Union to India and Bangladesh via Kabul, Islamabad, Lahore, on the one hand, and from Iran to India and Bangladesh via Nokkundi, Quetta and Sukkir, on the other, is supposed to be there as well. A clarification has, however, been made: The ample Kremlin munificence does not include nuclear reactors.

The Pakistan Government, for its part, is also doing some homework. Papers are apparently being written over how much aid we can and should ask of the Soviet Union and for an increase in

trade. Some of the offers are too tempting to be cavalierly treated. But, and it is a big but, there is a wide realisation that like all other foreign aid, the much-enhanced Soviet one too carries a price tag. The Pakistanis are in this business of aid-taking for so long that they have acquired a fair amount of expertise. But the latter is confined to the officials; the public is seldom taken into confidence. The strings attached to the amazingly attractive Soviet offers will no doubt be examined minutely, indeed. But it might be a good idea to thrash them out in public.

In view of the increasing tendency of many powers to conduct an open diplomacy in Pakistan, the secretiveness of the Pakistani officials should now be seen as being counter-productive. Insofar as the big Soviet offers are concerned, the minimum cost is the recognition of Babrak Karmal government and cooperating with it to ensure (a) the stabilisation of its internal situation and (b) accord on details of the return of as many refugees as would return. The benefits of this preliminary step would ensure (1) recognition of the Durand line by Afghanistan; (2) return of the refugees; (3) final solution of the Pakhtunistan dispute; and (4) Soviet goodwill.

And the maximum? Who can say what that will be? Insofar as it is a price being demanded of the present Pakistan Government, it cannot be too radical. But one's guess is that it will involve Pakistan delinking itself from America's strategic or military schemes, for a starter. There can be no insistence on not taking any economic aid from the West or maintaining cultural contacts with the latter; members of the Comecon have close cultural and economic relations with Western countries.

Another Soviet condition could be that Pakistan should not present them with situations in which the Kremlin is faced with the need to choose between New Delhi and Islamabad. If we force them to it, they will choose India, as the Americans have done in the past and may do so again. The Soviet leadership does not insist upon a rapprochement between Pakistan and India as the U.S. and China recommend; for the Kremlin even tepid normalisation would be serviceable.

But hurdles to Pakistan-Soviet economic cooperation on a large-scale will remain. Some of them are obvious: e.g concerning Afghanistan. Pakistan has to bite the bullet and talk purposefully to Babrak Karmal or whoever may be governing Kabul. Now, this will not be obliging the Russians, though they will be pleased. Basically this will be to protect and promote our own security. We need to send the refugees home. We must help ensure that there is peace and calm next door. Unless we work out the actual modalities with Afghan officials, how will there be peace and quiet inside Afghanistan and how will the return movement begin, if it ever will?

One mentioned the on-going normalisation effort between Moscow and Beijing and the recent improvement in the trade between them. There is also a parallel movement between Beijing and New Delhi. Let us understand one thing: Continued feud between China and India is not seen as a good thing either by the superpowers or even in Beijing or New Delhi. Thanks to myriad uncertainties of the Asian situation, especially in the extremely complex and sensitive Northeast and Southwest Asia, a quieter South Asia — involving a modus vevendi between Islamabad and Kabul (and Moscow), on the one side, and Islamabad and New Delhi, on the other — will be in everybody's interest, mainly our own.

Therefore, not all the price-paying need be on our side: The others too will give something to win our cooperation. Moscow certainly will, as it seems to be signalling loudly and clearly. Only New Delhi's message is coming over rather garbled. But if Pakistan's opening to the West does come to pass, some of its ambiguity and even hostility should disappear. This is not Pakistan's Soviet card that the fevered imagination of some Indian commentators had been noticing. The Soviet Union does not constitute a card for Pakistan to play, nor can it be played against India. But improved relations with Moscow, necessary as they are in the cause of Pakistan's own security, are a logical next move in the evolving situation.

This involves Pakistan reviewing and refixing its long-range role in the region. It does seem as if we have been setting ourselves a series of unrealisable goals; near-total frustration in almost all our objectives so far testifies to this conclusion. Without a proper reorientation of the foreign policy no further movement towards strengthening our polity, independence and security would be possible.

NAWA-E WAQT on U.S. Favoritism Toward India

GF131837 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 8 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. Efforts To Bring Pakistan and India Closer"]

[Excerpts] The Indian prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, has complained that although there is a lot of talk of democracy and freedom in the United States, there is no such policy as far as India (the biggest republic in the world) is concerned. She made this complaint in an interview in New York and has propounded the philosophy that U.S. citizens are opposed to the Soviet Union and its policies as regards freedom and democracy, but when "people like me" differ with the United States, then it is considered unpleasant and they recoil at it.

Mrs Gandhi's gripe about the United States is not true because the status overtly allotted to India by the Soviet Union on the basis of regional supremacy is the same as that given to it by the United States. Both the Soviet Union and the United States consider India the greater power in the region. The only difference is that the Soviet Union openly acknowledges this position of its puppet India, whereas the United States also attempts to make Pakistan acquiesce to India's status. The real reason for Mrs Gandhi's litany is that after Soviet troops marched into Afghanistan, the United States arranged to sell some arms to Pakistan. Mrs Gandhi's fulminations to that effect are aimed at making the United States restrict its arms sales to Pakistan, even on a limited scale, so that a Pakistan — weak from the defense point of view — has no other choice except to bow down before India.

Mrs Gandhi's clamor and supplications did not prove ineffective and U.S. spokesmen have spurred their efforts to pacify India at the expense of Paksitan and this attitude of the United States is tantamount to being intimidated by India.

During his recent visit to Islamabad, the adviser for national security during Carter's presidency, Mr. Brzezinski, said in an attempt to placate Paksitan that if Afghanistan were to attack Pakistan on behalf of the Soviet Union, the United States would be obliged to help Pakistan under the 1959 agreement. However, he also elucidated that if India attacked Pakistan, even if on Soviet instigation, the United States would not assist Pakistan. Although Dr Brzezinski is no longer the official spokesman of the U.S. Government, his statement has been interpreted in Pakistan as an attempt to provoke India to attack Paksitan.

Dr Brzezinski's statement is contradictory to the 1959 agreement because according to it, the United States is duty bound to assist Pakistan in the event of a communist attack or an attack carried out with communist aid. However, in 1965 and 1971, the U.S. attitude left no doubts in Pakistani minds that whether the Soviet Union attacks directly or its agent and military ally and supporter India is made to attack, the United States will assist Pakistan. The United States however wishes to continue its ambivalent attitude.

No other country, not even Arab and Muslim countries, much less a Western country, can comprehend India's act and attitudes against Pakistan and they do not have that knowledge and experience about India's mentality and objectives vis-a-vis Pakistan as does Pakistan itself. The people of Pakistan know fully well that the United States has a soft spot for India and its rulers. The United States is willing to sacrifice all for one smile from Mrs Gandhi and all the moral obligations and legal duties under its agreement with Pakistan cannot deter it from standing before India with its hands folded in a suppliant manner!

DAWN Comments on Li Xiannian's Visit

GF160825 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Mar 84 p 7

[Editorial: "Close Ties With China"]

[Text] President Li Xiannian's four-day visit to Pakistan has special significance in the bilateral and regional context. It has certainly fulfilled the four purposes the Chinese leader had before him, namely, promotion of mutual understanding between Islamabad and Beijing, deepening of friendship, expansion of mutual cooperation and exchange of information between them. The close understanding Pakistan and China have forged between them over the decades needs no emphasising. But it does provide a measure of the importance the governments of the two countries attach to this special relationship that they consider it essential to exchange high-level visits periodically which contribute immensely towards the consolidation of this relationship.

The identity of views on major international issues which emerged during President Li's visit is meaningful not only in the context of Pakistan's foreign policy but also in the broader regional framework. Thus, it is not without significance that Pakistan and China continue to stand for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and Kampuchea, the cessation of war in the Gulf and a just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East. A common approach on these issues, which have a direct bearing on the peace and stability of Asia, should help strengthen the hands of the two governments in their quest for a peaceful and principled settlement in the region. Moreover, this should also reinforce their bilateral friendship which is based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, namely, respect for independence and national integrity, sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and cooperation for mutual benefit.

In keeping with these principles, Pakistan and China have forged closer ties of economic cooperation. In 1982, during President Zia's visit to China, a joint committee was set up to facilitate trade and scientific and technical ties. The committee's first meeting was held last year and a number of projects were identified to be launched jointly by the two countries. Given the progress they have so far made in the field of economic and technical cooperation, the move to expand bilateral cooperation will be generally welcomed. Moreover, the thrust of Chinese policy has been towards self-reliance and this should be very instructive for Pakistan. China's assistance for the Guddu thermal power plant and for tractor plant, for instance, should result in the transfer of technology to Pakistan in a high priority area. Trade ties have also been growing over the years and China is now one of Pakistan's major trading partners.

Sino-Pakistan ties have significance for both countries not only in the bilateral context. They have also constituted a stable factor in South Asian politics for two decades. Thus, the international equations in the region have centered round, among other elements, the close understanding Pakistan and China have between them. This has had far-reaching implications for the Afghanistan situation, Indo-Pakistan relations, the Indian Ocean and other such issues. Seen in this perspective, the moves China has made to normalise its ties with India and the Soviet Union have some bearing on South Asia as well. Although the dialogue Beijing is conducting separately with Moscow and New Delhi might take quite some time to produce tangible results, the political climate has begun to register subtle changes. But the point to take into account is that the friendship between China and Pakistan has stood the test of time, and one has good reasons to hope that this friendship will retain its relevance even if some of the existing diplomatic equations undergo a change. Periodic contacts at the highest level can, in this context, help renew the friendship from time to time and keep it in good trim.

SRI LANKA

Spokesman Reports on All-Party Conference

BK161129 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Consensus has been reached at the all-party conference granting citizenship rights to the stateless persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. Conference spokesman, Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, told a news briefing after the meeting yesterday that a consensus had been reached on the need for the elimination of the status of stateless persons in Sri Lanka. This number represents the balance that had been left at the conclusion of the implementation of the Sirimavo-Shastri Pact. [as heard]

The minister said that consensus had also been reached on the need for the devolution of (?essential) power to enable the people to participate in the administration.

Another area on which consensus had been reached was the establishment of an elected institution at grass-roots level.

The conference has also agreed that all forms of terrorism in all parts of the country should be eradicated.

A committee resolved a report to plenary the matters on which consensus had been arrived at as well as matters still to be resolved. [as heard]

Arab Foreign Ministers Baghdad Meeting Viewed

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD151819 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Statement issued by Foreign Ministry of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the inhumane measures of the Iraqi regime against the Muslim people of Iran, which involve the use of chemical weapons, and the spectacular victories achieved by the combatants of Islam on the fronts of the imposed war, we again are witnessing the efforts of America and its allies to prevent the downfall of the Iraqi regime.

Recently, a conference of some Arab countries' foreign ministers was held at the request of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and with the direction and help of some notorious Arab governments so that, in their imagination, they might be able to save Saddam from the trap he has created for himself.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers it necessary to note several points for the enlightenment of public opinion:

Why didn't those who talk about the unity of the Arab nation and sympathize over the shedding of the blood of Muslim youths open their mouths to protest at the beginning of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's aggression against the Islamic homeland and its missile attacks and repeated bombings of residential areas and our country's Arab-inhabited towns and villages? By their silence and by providing a variety of military and financial help, they encouraged and persuaded this regime in its aggression.

The concurrence of the holding of this conference with the Iraqi regime's chemical bombings and the extensive condemnation of this measure by the world's public opinion only means support for and participation in the crimes of this dying regime in connection with the use of chemical weapons, which is contrary to international standards and human principles. It is clear to everybody that some Arab countries have played an essential role in fanning the flames of the imposed war and in putting all sorts of help at the disposal of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. Obviously, they will take any desperate measure, such as holding such conferences, when they see the existence of this regime in danger.

In this connection, we warn the other Arab governments which have not played a role in starting the imposed war, that the policy of intervening in the war at this juncture, which is the time for the defeat of the Iraqi regime, is not a wise policy to adopt and the Ba'thist regime and its supporters, with all their defeats, had better be the only ones found responsible for their crimes against the Islamic nation.

The Muslim Iranian nation is determined to continue its legitimate defense until it pushes out the last Ba'thist mercenary from the occupied land, liberates the regions occupied by the enemy, and eliminates the cause of tension in the region. The creation of such a poisonous political atmosphere in the region by America and its allies will not have the slightest effect on the decisive resolution of the Islamic Republic of Iran to obtain the full rights of the Muslim nation and to destroy the cause of these crimes.

Peace and God's mercy and blessing be upon you.

[Signed] Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Prime Minister's Comments

LD154184 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] A number of officials of the public relations office and the executive staff for information and operations of the Islamic Revolution committees were received this morning by Prime Minister Musavi. Having been briefed on the activities and achievements of the Islamic Revolution committees, the prime minister spoke about the motives and consequences of the conference of reactionary Arab representatives in Baghdad, aimed at reviewing the Iraqi imposed war on Iran: The conference, in which the representatives of the Arab countries friendly toward Iran are absent, seeks nothing more than to safeguard and perpetuate the domination of big powers over the interests of nations. The guiding motive of the organizers and participants of the conference is to give nobility to racism and nationalism. This is opposed to Islam and ultimately would serve the interests of the United States and the USSR.

Warning some of the reactionary states of the region about providing financial aid to Iraq, the prime minister said: This aid cannot be kept secret from the Muslim Iranian people. A proper response will be made when the time comes.

Referring to the silence of the world media with regard to Saddam's war crimes, particularly the use of chemical bombs, the prime minister attributed it to the awareness of world public opinion as well as the creation of a popular obstacle in the way of providing aid to the criminal Saddam.[sentence as heard] He added: Should the facts and the extent of the crimes committed by the Zionist Iraqi regime in this imposed war be divulged to the world, should the people of the world realize how Iraq is shedding the blood of men, women, children, old, and young with its 9-meter missiles in the middle of the night, should all the facts about the war be reported truthfully by the world media, then there is no doubt that Mitterrand and people like him would be unable to continue with their armament and political assistance to Iraq as simply as all that.

The prime minister then alluded to the government's measures to send the victims of chemical bombardments abroad and the awareness of public opinion about Saddam's crimes despite the attempts of governments to prevent the reporting of these crimes. He said: Despite the fact that Western governments have resorted to creating extensive obstacles to prevent the media from reporting these news, nevertheless, the countries that claim to be defending people and supporting the deprived are not prepared to utter a single word about these war crimes for they fear their own crimes in Afghanistan and the bombing of populated areas of that Muslim country. Consequently, to raise such a topic and

condemn it would pose a question as to the antihuman acts committed by the USSR in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, the prime minister explained the role of public relations in reporting services rendered by institutions and providing feedback to government officials.

Arabic Commentary

GF152013 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] History has never before recorded such an improper attitude as that of some Arab regimes in Baghdad. Why didn't these ministers who attended the conference ask themselves: Why were we brought to Baghdad? What is required from us? What were they supposed to do after signing a document which had already been prepared and typed for them in Baghdad and which they found in their hands at the Baghdad airport before attending the conference?

If they had asked themselves one question in this regard, they would have discovered a perfect scenario behind this document and behind the improper attitude, which is a very perfect plot.

The one who prepared the final statement of the conference before its convention, knew beforehand what he needed, what to do, and what the Arab regimes should say. Perhaps the average man-on-the-street can solve these riddles if he looks at all the events together. Or perhaps he could reveal the background of the Baghdad conference if he views this conference together with the question: Has the ruling regime in Baghdad come to an end?

The Iraqi individual and all those who are following the events in Baghdad know that this regime has come to an end. The regime ended when others began to take the responsibility in confronting the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The media have put an end to this regime which was once feeding the whole world with empty words. The imperialist circles, which were watching the doomed fate of the Iraqi regime, were looking for any means to remove it from the quagmire of defeat. So, a call was made for the convening of the conference of the foreign ministers of the Arab regimes. The draft of the rescue statement was written and millions of dollars — which were taken from the money of Al Sa'ud — were employed in the purchase of the Arab signatures that would be put on this draft which was written in a way to suit the status of the rulers of Iraq. However, it did not suit this stage nor did it even suit the goal defined by the foreign ministers, which is peace in the region.

If they want to strengthen the bases of peace in this way, then Islam will be finished. What kind of peace is this which comes through threats? The problem is that the ministers who took part in the conference left the conference in the same way they came — blindfolded. The problem is that they either did not read the statement before signing it or maybe they did not read anything about the Islamic Revolution of Iran or about the revolting people who caused the collapse of the fifth military power in the world or did not pay any attention to the U.S. threats, to the economic siege, or to the operation of Tabas, or even to the aggressive war which Saddam launched with the inspiration of international imperialism. If they had read those shining pages of the history of our nation, then they would have not made this nonsensical, insulting statement which means nothing to the revolutions and free peoples.

Those who planned the Baghdad meeting achieved what they prepared for. But this does not mean they won this round. If their goal was to place the Arab regimes in confrontation with the Islamic Republic, then this is not an important matter so long as the Islamic Republic is certain of its attitude and believes in its values. As long as the Islamic peoples side with the Islamic Republic, then what is the value of adopting an antagonistic position toward it? And what is the effect of this on its status as a revolution that continuously flourishes? But if the goal was to rescue the regime of Iraq from imminent drowning, then we would like to say that it is too late to rescue someone whose life is very close to termination.

JOMHURI-YE Assesses Lausanne Talks

LD151640 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[From press review — *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* article: "Lebanon — A Defeat for East and West"]

[Text] During the past week, Lebanon was again very much in the news. If we put aside the world reaction condemning Baghdad's regime for making use of chemical weapons and germ bombs, the reports from Lebanon were again on top of the reports from the region.

Although in appearance two gatherings — one in Lausanne in Switzerland to talk about the continued existence of Al-Jumayyil's regime and the other in Baghdad to discuss methods about how to save the Ba'thist regime in Iraq — are two separate functions, nevertheless, in essence, both pursue the same goal. The goal of both meetings is to devise means to save two collapsing regimes, the Phalangists in Lebanon and the Ba'thists in Iraq.

The reports from Lausanne indicate that some of the opposition wings are insisting on Al-Jumayyil's downfall, but it is still not clear how serious they are in their demands. In any case, it is unlikely that either meeting will have a decisive role in the course of events because the present movements are so deep-rooted and so extensive that a conference — especially with a formation that does not need any elaboration — can make no effective change in the balance of power either in Iraq or in Lebanon.

Due to its relative insignificance, we ignore the Baghdad meeting for the time being so that we can study the Lausanne conference, which is called the Conference on National Reconciliation in Lebanon. Some people insist on pretending that the former Conference on National Reconciliation ended in failure purely as the result of the agreement of cooperation between the Phalangists and Israel, and that now, with the cancelation of that agreement, the path has been paved for achieving agreement in Lebanon.

This propaganda trick might be effective for a short period, but with the passage of time it will lose its effect. The last Conference on National Reconciliation failed for two main reasons: First, because events in Lebanon when the conference was in session practically proved that those who were holding the discussions with Al-Jumayyil's regime were not the true representatives of the main wing of his opponents, namely,the Muslims of Lebanon. Secondly, the topics under discussion were fundamentally different from the real and current realities of Lebanon.

In fact, one should say that the revolutionary Lebanese Muslims, with their heroic deeds, including the destruction of the command centers of NATO and the Israeli forces, demonstrated that the compromisers who had taken part in the Conference on National Reconciliation were not the true representatives of the wing opposing Al-Jumayyil. Secondly, the Phalangist regime has such a black file in Lebanon that all the doors to discussion and to reconciliation are closed and there is no solution in Lebanon except the downfall of the Phalangists.

It is an undeniable fact that not only the failure of the former Conference on National Reconciliation, but even the cancellation of the agreement between the Phalangists and Israel are the results of the uncompromising struggles of revolutionary Lebanese Muslims. If we imagine that the cancellation of the agreement was the consequence of the failure of the former conference, we have made a big mistake in our analysis, which will mislead us. Time alone is needed to prove that the cancellation of the agreement between the Phalangists and Israel will not resolve the Lebanese crisis. Also, time will prove the failure in practice of the present Conference on National Reconciliation and will demonstrate that without the downfall of the Phalangists there is no room for reconciliation in Lebanon.

The cancellation of the agreement between the Phalangists and Israel cannot be regarded as a new favor and, therefore, the cancellation of that agreement should not be regarded as the most important issue in Lebanon; this agreement was signed to keep Al-Jumayyil's regime in power, and if with the cancellation of that agreement, the continuation of Al-Jumayyil in power can be better safeguarded there will no longer be any need for the retention of that agreement. Therefore, the main issue — the most important reason for the continuation of the Lebanese crisis — is the keeping of Al-Jumayyil's regime, the regime which signed that agreement, in power. If those who signed the former agreement continue in power, no tangible changes will come about in Lebanon's political life because with the continuation of the present order, it is not improbable that new agreements with Israel will be signed, either openly or in secret.

It is precisely because of this that the Lebanese Muslims so strongly insist on the downfall of the Phalangists; they know that political maneuvers by Al-Jumayyil's regime, including the holding of conferences on national reconciliation, the signing of an agreement with Israel and then its abrogation, are all means toward procrastination and toward the weakening of the forces of the Muslims. The Muslims have learned that these procrastinations, especially the holding of conferences on reconciliation, are devices used by the Phalangists to restore their strength. After every attack and slaughter, Al-Jumayyil's regime tries byevery means to restore the situation to its former position; thus the Lebanese crisis has reached an irreversible position.

The fact that both conferences on national reconciliation are held outside the geographical boundaries of Lebanon demonstrates a critical issue, namely, that the Phalangists and other involved groups have discovered that even if they want to put to paper the preliminary clauses of an agreement of reconciliation, they must be far removed from the reach of Muslim revolutionaries. In fact, it is not possible to reach an agreement inside Lebanon's borders, because no matter where they are, those attempting to do so will be within the firing range of Muslim revolutionaries. This is further evidence to show that the cancellation of the agreement with Israel should not be credited to those wings prepared to compromise with Al-Jumayyil.

It cannot be denied that the cancellation of the agreement of cooperation between the Phalangists and Israel was a major setback for the Phalangists and a great victory for Al-Jumayyil's opponents. However, Western propaganda machinery does not want this victory to be ascribed to the Muslims because it has realized that the recent defeats suffered by America, Al-Jumayyil, and Israel are only regarded as transitional victories by the Muslims who will increase their determination to bring about the Phalangists' downfall. This is why Washington tries to equate its defeats with gains for Moscow. Having portrayed Moscow as the real winner in the events of Lebanon, Washington hopes to gain a good opportunity to start a propaganda clamor about Soviet threats so that in this way it can explain away its defeats.

The West imagines that if it can spread the allegation that the events in Lebanon have been in the interest of the Eastern bloc, it will be provided with the opportunity to engage in adventurism in the Mediterranean, to ignore the Muslims as the real victors, and to pave the way for its future actions. Has Moscow gained anything as a the result of recent events in Lebanon? Moscow should not be too hasty in thinking that it has gained anything because when the truths are revealed they will not be too much in Moscow's interest, especially as the cancellation of the agreement between the Phalangists and Israel and the expulsion of American Marines and European interventionist forces will never lead to the growth of leftist forces in Lebanon. Moscow may soon learn that it has been hoping in vain to reap the results of the victories of Muslims in Lebanon and that it is not capable of gaining anything from these victories.

With the collapse of American prestige in Lebanon, the Soviet Union is trying to pretend that the Kremlin has been in charge of the operations, so as to damage American interests in Lebanon. In this way, it wishes to ride the wave of events in Lebanon. But what makes it believe that the storm of unexpected events in Lebanon, which swallowed the active policies of the West, will spare Moscow? [Passage indistinct]

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,666

LD151719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,666 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued along all the fronts of the imposed war between the able combatants of Islam and Iraqi Ba'thist mercenary aggressors. Kushk and Hoseyniyeh regions in the south witnessed the most intensified exchange of fire in the early hours yesterday. Sumultaneously with exchanges of fire between our forces and the enemy, the valiants of Islam continued to consolidate their positions. These activities were of considerable scale in the Khaybar and especially in the Majnun Island's operational sector. On the whole, the combatants of Islam on each front halted Iraqi fire by executing heavy artillery and mortar fire on enemy artillery positions, supply routes, and front lines. In addition to halting or obstructing enemy troop movements, they destroyed the Iraqi mercenaries positions and troops on each front.

Valiants of the Gendarmerie and Navy stationed on the Arvand Rud operational fronts repelled Saddamist moves and engineerig activities, halted their fire, and destroyed several enemy foxholes and bunkers and one observation tower in (Al-Dawrah) border post, killing its occupants.

The city of Abadan also came under Iraqi artillery fire yesterday, as a result of which some damage was inflicted on the city's installations; around 20 shops and houses also were damaged.

Iraqi Counterattack 'Smashed' in Talayah Region

LD161055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 84

[From news headlines]

[Text] A desperate counterattack by the Iraqi Zionist regime's forces in the Talayah region has been fiercely smashed. During the Islamic combatants' heroic counterattack, Iraq's Al-Kahlij Commando Battalion and the 2d Battalion of the 419th Brigade of the Iraqi 19th Division, supported by two mechanized battalions, were routed after suffering heavy losses and casualties.

Second Lieutenant Sahih Jalil 'Abd al-Zahra, commander of Company 4, 2d Battalion of the 419th Brigade, 19th Division, taken prisoner during yesterday's operations for neutralizing the counterattack, declared: Prior to beginning the counterattack, they ordered us all to use gas masks because during the attack we intended to use chemical gases.

IRNA Cites JANA on Chile Cluster Bombs for Iraq

LD151519 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — An Iraqi military plane landed in Santiago, Monday night, to receive a consignment of Chilean made cluster bombs to be used by the Iraqi regime in its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, reported the Libyan news agency, JANA, today. According to JANA the consignment was scheduled to be flown to Iraq from Chile Wednesday night in a 747 jet.

Meanwhile a spokesman of the firm manufacturing cluster bombs for the Chilean army said that the firm's products were cheaper than the American, British or French brands and that was why, he said, the firm was dominating the market.

IRNA: Austrian Doctor Confirms Chemical Injuries

LD151807 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — An Austrian physician, Professor Gerhard Lingen, who is currently here on an invitation by the martyrs foundation, said that investigations showed the injured Islamic combatants were the victims of chemical weapons.

Talking to IRNA here today, he called the employment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime as inhuman and savage. The Austrian physician, who was treating in Austria 7 of the ten injured combatants, said that skin and eye injuries were prevalent among the victims.

The Austrian physician, who is the head of the burns and plastic surgery hospital of Vienna, said that the burns were not due to fire but examinations revealed it to be mustard and mycotokin gases. He added that one of his colleagues, Hendriger Yeki, a Belgian specialist has also confirmed the presence of the two gases.

So far two of the chemical elements have been identified while the presence of other elements cannot be ruled out, he said.

Dr. Alizadeh, an Iranian physician, said that professor Lingen was the first foreign specialist who announced the employment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime.

Ministry Cites Election Resignations Requirement

LD151259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] An Interior Ministry election headquarters announcement refers to today's deadline for resignation by holders of official posts listed in sections 1 and 2, Article 31 of the electoral law of the Islamic Consultative Assembly whose registration as election candidates requires resignation from their posts. The announcement emphasizes that officials wishing to participate in the elections as candidates must resign by the close of business today, Thursday, and must terminate all activities connected with their work and relevant posts.

The list of posts mentioned:

1. The president of the republic and his consultants; the prime minister, ministers, under secretaries, and their consultants; members of the Guardians Council; members of the Supreme Judicial Council; chairman of the administrative justice tribunal;

head of the state inspectorate; and members of the armed services throughout the country.

2. Permanent Friday imams; public prosecutors and assistants; judges; governors general, their deputies and consultants; directors general and supervisors of directorates general; governors, district officers, and supervisors of Islamic publicity offices and of the crusade for reconstruction throughout the country; and directors of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regions in which they serve.

Leaders Meet Islamic Guidance Ministry Personnel

Ayatollah Khomeyni

LD101136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Khatami and Deputy Minister Mahmud Borujerdi, accompanied by the ministry's cultural representatives abroad, were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The minister briefed the imam of the nation, after which Imam Khomeyni said:

I hope you will be able to show the face of Islam as it really is. Today governments attempt to present Iran to the world in an unpleasant manner. The media and infamous organizations see the victory of Islam and Iran, or realize the extent of Iraq's oppression against us, and lie about violations of human rights in Iran, claiming that the Baha'is have no freedom at all in Iran — that, being Baha'i, they are imprisoned. They even allege that we kill pregnant women on the streets.

Let them say what they want. However, you should remember that the deprived peoples of the world — those who are not in government — support us. The thing is that Islam will eventually open its path and will show its face to all. We, too, must work according to our own capabilities and help the materialization of Islam. I do hope that everyone, particularly the Ministry of Guidance, will work hard — harder than others — so as to guide everyone. May God give you success so that you may help this country which in the past lagged behind in the field of culture — a country where no one did anything worthwhile when it came to giving guidance or making improvements.

President Khamene'i

GF111658 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — The minister of Ershad Eslami [Islamic Guidance], Mohammad Khatami, and the cultural representatives of the Islamic Republic abroad, met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here today.

Speaking to the visitors he said that activities of the Islamic Republic Government of Iran abroad were neither aimed at expansionism nor the use of force, nor did they seek to establish intelligence and security networks. At the same time, he added, it did not want to be alienated from the nations and their wishes. Our motive in establishing relations with the world was only to convey and promote the progressive and constructive Islamic ideology. This, he stressed, was our main responsibility.

Referring to massive propaganda of the enemies of Islam against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, he said that if the Islamic Republic of Iran did not pose such a threat to superpowers and corrupt powers, they would not have launched such a propaganda tirade. By the same token, these powers would not have invested so much for opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He concluded that despite all plots of the enemies of Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran would condemn the world oppressors before God and the clear conscious of the people.

Nicaragua's Ramirez Mercado Continues Visit

Meeting With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

GF140800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text]Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the three-man board of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, and the accompanying delegation, last night met and conferred with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During the meeting, he noted the similarities between the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the Nicaraguan revolution: U.S. imperialism attacks you from a distance and is attacking us from close range since both revolutions have severely endangered its interests. Because the United States was defeated in a military confrontation with us, it has resorted to terrorist actions, to bombing our ports, bridges, and electricity plants, and mining our harbors in an attempt to bring us to our knees. It has no compassion for our women and children and even attacks our civilian population through military aggressions carried out via our border with Honduras. They have even murdered 8-month-old children as well as many other innocent people.

The Nicaraguan prime minister then added: Irrespective of this, we are prepared to oppose a direct act of aggression by the United States and this is the will of our people. It is because of this that we have such feelings for the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: We follow the events in your country with interest and know that if a revolution like yours opposes the interest of international oppression then it becomes the target of aggression of this oppressive power.

After the revolution, international oppression comes on softly for a while in the hope of changing the direction of the revolution and its contents to its advantage. However, as soon as it loses hope of influencing the revolution, naturally it starts opposing the revolution, using all of its capabilities. We have experienced this during our glorious Islamic Revolution. Against its nature, the imperialist should forgo its interests or it has to receive blows from the angry revolutionary people and be frighten off. The best example of this is Lebanon where a group of Lebanese people defeated the region's reaction together with a number of powerful countries of the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also stood up to Eastern and Western imperialism and the region's

reaction at its 1,000- km-long border which spans five provinces. Thus, it has forced them to accept the reality of the Islamic Revolution. After 4 years of war with imperialism, we find ourselves stronger and this shows that it is possible to battle dark forces. The main condition for this is reliance on the glorious godly values and support of the people. As far as we know, such values are present in the Nicaraguan revolution.

Talks With President Khamene'i

LD141046 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Visiting member of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, met and conferred with President 'Ali Khamene'i Tuesday. The Nicaraguan official is currently visiting here at the head of a politico-economic delegation.

In his meeting with President Khamene'i Mr. Mercado said that he has come from a country fighting with the U.S., to visit a country on which a war has been imposed. He said also that the Nicaraguan revolution was the twin of the Islamic revolution and was likewise fighting against U.S. imperialism for its survival, and that the ruling government of his country, backed by its nation would also continue its struggle.

In reply to the Nicaraguan official's statement, President Khamene'i said that the two countries shared many similar issues, including resistance and struggling against big powers, which has inevitably placed Iran and Nicaragua on the same side. He said also the two countries' revolution were shared likewise similarities in that both were threatened by various pressures after each's victory. Therefore, the president continued, it was imperative that the two countries cooperate.

The president said "we believe in the power of nations and final victory was with those who relied on power of their nations, further saying that the greatest lesson of our revolution was that it taught us not to fear superpowers, who are just as vulnerable as the countries they victimise.'

Continuing his remarks President Khamene'i said that the Islamic Republic welcomed expansion of ties with Nicaragua, who was resisting and struggling against superpowers.

He added that the Nicaraguan envoy would have the opportunity to familiarise himself with the Iraqi imposed war and the crimes of the enemy in subjecting the Iranian nation to outlawed and modern military arms. He added that only independent nations have the power of resistance, and said that he believed Nicaraguans were able to overcome the United States.

Serjio Mercado presented a medal of the 50th anniversary of death of Sandinista to President Khamene'i.

The Nicaraguan delegation also visited Sa'dabad museum complex Tuesday evening.

The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, and the visiting Nicaraguan ministers as well as Iran's ambassador to Managua.

Visit to Khuzestan Province

GF141506 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the three-man Nicaraguan Reconstruction Council, along with a number of civil and military personnel of that country who are on a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Ahvaz this morning along with an Iranian delegation, the deputy prime minister in charge of the foundations affairs, and the Iranian ambassador to Nicaragua. They were received at the airport by the governor general of Khuzestan, Mr Fruzandeh, and other officials of the province.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, after the airport ceremony, Sergio Ramirez Mercado and delegation left for the resistance city of Abadan to see the effects of the crimes of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime. According to our correspondent, this group after arrival at Abadan, first called on Hojjat ol-Eslam Jami', Friday imam and imam's representative in Abadan, and held talks with him. In the course of this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Jami' welcomed the guests and gave details of the sacrifices and the resistance put up by the martyr-nurturing people of Abadan in the imposed war.

The delegation then visited one of the city's hospitals, a part of which had been damaged by the Saddamist mercenaries. The Nicaraguan delegation inspected the ruined residential quarters which had been hit by brutal attacks from heavy and long-range artillery of the Saddamist mercenaries and saw the destroyed building of the Abadan education department, which had been hit by Iraqi bombers the very first day of the war. During the visit to the residential areas damaged by the Saddamist mercenaries, the governor of Abadan, in the company of a large number of people, teachers, and students, explained to the Nicaraguan delegation the devastation brought about by the Saddam mercenaries.

According to the report, after a visit to the Abadan cemetery, the delegation also visited the entire area affected by the Saddamist crimes in Khorramshahr.

Battalion Invites Applicants for Technical Cadre

GF100836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The Zolfaqar Battalion invites pious applicants to join its technical cadre who are dedicated to the military system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and who hold junior school certificates and whose age does not exceed 40 years. Volunteers can contact the adjutant's office of this battalion for registration, located on Dr Shari'ati Avenue on the Shahid Qoddusi intersection opposite the naval headquarters.

300 Students, Teachers Dispatched to Fronts

GF150556 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit from Shahr-e Kord, during the month of Bahman [21 January-19

February], 300 students and teachers were dispatched to the fronts of light over darkness by the general education department of Chahar Mahal Bakhtiari Province.

Iraqi Revolutionaries Leave for Fronts

GF091734 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] A group of Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries who reside in the holy city of Qom left yesterday for the front of the war which has been imposed by the ruling regime in Iraq on the Islamic Revolution.

Prior to their departure to the fronts of right against wrong, they paraded in the streets of the city. Later they held a meeting at the holy tomb of Ma'suma, may God bless her, while they displayed portraits of Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Revolution; of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri; and of Ayatollah Bakr as-Sadr. They also chanted Arabic slogans in support of the Islamic Revolution and the necessity of fighting the war until final victory is attained.

One of the members of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq denounced the crimes committed by the ruling regime in Iraq in attacking the residential areas in Iran. He also affirmed the importance of the struggle against the Saddam regime until an Islamic government is established in Iraq.

Iraqi Attacks on Kurds, Draft Methods, Morale Cited

LD151233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports from Baghdad, the Zionist regime of Baghdad a few days ago heavily bombed the Kurdish village of (Kanya) in the district of Zakhu, but there are still no reports about the number of casualties.

According to other reports from the north of Iraq, the regime of Saddam has forced the inhabitants of Choman villages to evacuate that region. They they were forcefully sent to (Mulia Imran) camp near the town of Irbil.

Informed sources from inside Iraq reported that following the announcement of an agreement between Talebani and the Zionist regime of Saddam the struggles of the Muslim Kurdish people have been greatly accelerated, and as a result of the reactions shown by the Muslim Kurds the regime of Vaghdad, which had pinned a great deal of hope on its agreement with the dependent Talebani clique, is now facing a dead-end. As a result, it has resorted to the desperate act of bombing the Kurdish regions in order to suppress the struggles of the Kurdish Muslims of the region.

Meanwhile, following the repeated defeats inflicted on the declining forces of Saddam by the Islamic combatants, reports from Iraq say that Saddam's regime has ordered all policemen on patrol duty and the agents of its security organizations to identify individuals who are capable of bearing arms and to send them to the war fronts. Now nearly all government departments have lost most of their employees. According to the same report, Saddam's regime has forcefully sent a number of people from the holy town of Al-Kazimiyah to the fronts. According to the same report, Two Iraqi youths who had fled from the battlefronts were arrested by security officials and were shown on Baghdad television as two Iranian POW's.

Reports from Baghdad indicate that, following the recent defeats inflicted upon the forces of Saddam by the Islamic combatants, the Iraqi soldiers are overcome with despair and dissatisfaction, and their morale is very low.